



The Chacoan World

Scan the skyline, and turn completely around. The Chaco world stretched from horizon to horizon – and beyond. Chaco was the ceremonial, administrative, and trading center for the entire region between A.D. 850 and 1150.

Chacoan “roads” linked Pueblo Alto to Pueblo Bonito and other buildings on the canyon floor. Roads radiated from Pueblo Alto to northern communities. Down 30-foot-wide roadways, people came with goods – offerings, foods, building timbers, pottery, turquoise, macaws from Mexico, shells from the Gulf of California – and most importantly ideas.

Excavations at Pueblo Alto in the 1970s challenged traditional views of Chaco. This great house – and others – may have held a small resident population. Pueblo Alto periodically hosted large groups of people who traveled here to participate in ceremonies, trading, feasting, and the ritual breaking of pottery as offerings.

For the protection of the site and for your own safety, please stay off fragile walls.

